

Todd County Middle School: Our Journey

Insights, Lessons, and Plans moving forward with the Native
American Achievement School Grant

Where we started

Baseline Year/2015-2016

2015/2016

- Student Count – 407 ADM with ADA of 348
- 85.63% attendance rate
- Office Managed Behavior – 1537
- Out of school suspensions – 479
- Acts of Physical Violence – (Fighting/Assaults) – 80
- 8 Period Day with lunch/activity time
- Lowest performing middle school in the state of South Dakota
- Second lowest performing school in state of South Dakota

Changes

- Adoption of Oceti Sakowin Essential Understandings and curriculum for Social Studies
- Reconstruction of Recovery Room
- Staffing (replaced 12 certified staff)
- Started professional development on trauma informed instruction
- Love and Logic training for classroom management
- District adoption of common ELA curriculum
- Applied for and awarded Native American Achievement School Grant
- Welcoming Ceremony

2016/2017

- Student Count – 360 ADM, 295 ADA
- 82.23% Attendance Rate
- Office Managed Behavior Incidents – 771 (50% decrease)
- Out of School Suspensions – 215 (51% Decrease)
- Acts of Violence (Fighting/Assaults) – 26 (77% decrease)
- 8 Period Day with Advisory Period
- SPI of 13

Changes....

- Recovery Room – 1843 Recovery Room visits
- Restorative versus strictly punitive
- Continued professional development in trauma informed care and instruction
- Partnership with NACA and NISN
- Community involvement
- First Children First
- Development of Guiding Principles
- Executive Functions curriculum
- Adoption of common Math curriculum
- Work Study
- Purpose Driven Recruiting and staff development

2017/2018

- Student Count – 372 ADM, 313 ADA
- 84.20% Attendance Rate
- Office Managed Behavior Incidents – 570 (26% decrease from year 2)
- Out of School Suspensions – 181 (16% decrease from year 2)
- Acts of Violence (Fights/Assault) – 30
- Modified Flex Schedule with 10 periods
- Increased SPI by 146%
- High growth in Reading and Science
- 70% of students meeting or exceeding growth goals in math and reading

Changes....

- Circle of Courage-Dr. Martin Broken Leg (Belonging/Independence/Mastery/Generosity)
- Embracing culture and what it is to be an modern day Lakota
- Modified Schedule allows for experiential learning and exposure – Daytrips and expanded exploratory classes with relevance driving course development
- Development of Wellness class as cornerstone of what we do
- NAASG initiatives and funding allowed us to be more authentic and transparent with our transformation efforts

Today

- Development of mastery of skills assessment of student growth with TIE support
- Innovative Configuration Map for creating culturally responsive classroom environments
- Support from Dr. Tonemah for staff in implementing trauma informed instruction
- Focus on relevance and rigor in all content areas
- IndigenUS
- Expansion of Lakota language classes with goal of creating fluent bilingual speakers

Today...

- Sustainability planning for fellowship program
- Syllabus for all classes tying into Oceti Sakowin Essential Understandings
- Continued development of Wellness group
- Continued development of student leadership and student accountability in their education
- Development of summer camps in partnership with tribal programs